

Graduate Connection

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News

Faculty Changes

This fall we welcome four new faculty members.

Luigi Bocola was hired as an assistant professor last year, but took a post-doctoral year at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. He is a macroeconomist with a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. He is room 305

Sara Hernández, a development economist who also works on the economics of the family has joined the department as an Assistant Professor of Instruction. She completed her PhD at MIT. She is in room 349.

Martí Mestieri is fourth-year Assistant Professor and joins us from the Toulouse School of Economics. His research focuses on understanding the effects of technology and human capital on economic outcomes at the aggregate level, with special focus on economic growth and inequality. He is in room 331.

Mar Reguant is a fourth-year Assistant Professor who was previously at the business school at Stanford University. She works in the area of industrial organization with a focus on energy and electricity markets. She is in room 3232.

Congratulations to **Giorgio Primiceri** on his promotion to Full Professor, and **Ivan Canay** on his promotion to Associate Professor. **Ian Savage** and **Mark Witte** were promoted to Professor of Instruction, and **Jim Hornsten** and **Richard Walker** were promoted to Associate Professor of Instruction.

Leaving us is **Ron Siegel** who has joined Penn State University.

During the coming academic year **Treb Allen**, **Bruno Strulovici** and **Alex Torgovitsky** will be on leave and away from the Department for the entire year,

and **David Berger** will be away next Spring.

Staff Changes

The Department welcomed our new Business Administrator **Michelle Obuhanich** last May. She was previously with the Department of Chemistry. She replaces **Margene Lehman**. The Business Administrator's office is now in room 303.

We are also pleased to announce that **Sarah Muir Ferrer**, who was previously with the MMSS program, will be the Undergraduate Program Coordinator and the Coordinator of Workshops and Events. She will be working out of our main office.

Longtime affiliated staff member **Fran Walker** of CMS-EMS (Math Center) retired this summer. Management of CMS-EMS will be handled by staff in Kellogg's MEDS Department.

Start-of-Year Reception

Our start-of-year reception for faculty, staff and graduate students, will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 11, from 1:00PM to 3:00PM at the Allen Center.

The event will feature the Allen Center's famed buffet lunch, an open bar, and a chance to enjoy the lakefront lagoon in the daylight. Family members are welcome. Our traditional awards will also be handed out. See also the "Events" section.

Visitors

Mara Squicciarini, a recent PhD from the Catholic University at Leuven will be visiting post-doctoral visitor for the Fall and Winter Quarters. Her interests include economic growth and development, economic history, and the economics of migration. She will be in room 3219 in the Fall and 311 in the Winter.

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Information on visitors in the Winter and Spring Quarters, including the return of Nemmers Prize holder **Jean Tirole**, will be given in the December and March editions of the *Graduate Connection*.

Department Management

The Department's management team is largely unchanged from last year. The team is:

Igal Hendel - Department Chair

Ian Savage - Associate Chair

Wojciech Olszewski - Director of Graduate Studies

Giorgio Primiceri and **Marciano Siniscalchi** - Co-Directors of Graduate Admissions

Matthias Doepke - Director of Graduate Placement

Robert Gordon - Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee

Mark Witte - Director of Undergraduate Studies

Guido Lorenzoni - Chair of the Junior Recruiting Committee

Welcome to our First-year Grad Students!

Welcome to the Department of Economics and to Evanston. We hope that your years with us are productive and fulfilling. Please take the opportunity to mix with other graduate students and the faculty. A good way of doing this is at the TGIF held every Friday at 5:00PM in the lounge (room 327).

The Director of Graduate Studies has prepared some information on goals for first year students, which answers many frequently asked questions. This is posted on our web site in the "Graduate > Degree Requirements and Goals" section.

The Graduate School has a language testing regime for Teaching Assistantship (TA) eligibility. All of our new first year students, excepting those from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA, and the UK, and those that did well on the Speaking Section of the TOEFL Internet-based test, will need to schedule taking the Versant English Test during the next two weeks.

Students will have to score at least 65 to be eligible to be a TA. Otherwise they will be placed in English as a Second Language (ESL) programs.

TAs are the primary form of financial support in years two through four.

Please place a high priority on making sure that you meet the language requirement (full details are in the "Goals for First Year Students" page on our website). In the past, otherwise qualified students have gone unfunded because they did not meet the language requirement.

Events

Teaching Assistant Training

The training of new Teaching Assistants will be held on Thursday September 17. This is organized by the Searle Center for Advancing Learning & Teaching. All TAs who will be teaching for the first time this year, or missed last year's program, are required to attend. The training will last from 9:00AM to 3:30PM. Please go to Technological Institute Ryan Auditorium for a general orientation and directions to the room that will be used for the sessions designed and held solely for TAs from the Economics Department. These will be led by Yana Gallen, an accomplished TA in the Department. You do need to register for the conference. Go to: <http://www.northwestern.edu/searle/> and click on "Programs > Graduate and Postdoctoral" then "New TA Conference" for more information, and to register.

University Orientation for First Year Students

The Graduate School will hold a general orientation for all new graduate students from 10AM to 7PM at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall and the Norris University Center on Friday, September 18. Information will be available on campus and community resources, health services, financial issues and other practical issues.

Orientation for Second Year Students

Second year students are invited to attend a session on Friday, September 18 from 12:30PM – 3:00PM in room 3245. Presentations will be made on the goals for the second and third year of our program, and the requirements for the departmental funding. Short presentations will be made by faculty describing the field course choices available in the Department and within the Kellogg School of Management.

Orientation for Students on the Job Market

Matthias Doepke, Director of Graduate Placement, will be holding an orientation session for students who are thinking about going on the job market on Tuesday, September 29 at 5:15PM in room 3245. For more details see the Placement Report below.

Start-of-Year Reception

Faculty, staff, graduate students, and their families are all invited to the start of year lunch buffet and reception that will be held at the Allen Center from 1:00PM to 3:00PM on Sunday, October 11.

This reception will also feature the awarding of the Department's Distinguished Teaching Assistant awards for last year, the Bies Essay awards, and the Eisner Fellowship.

E-mail invitations will be sent out, with RSVPs through Eventbrite nueconomicsfallbuffet2015.eventbrite.com by noon on Monday, October 5. Family members and children welcome.

Teaching

Course Offerings 2015-16

The schedule for graduate courses for the coming year is shown on the "Graduate > Class Schedules" page of the

Department's web site, along with the timings for each quarter.

Economics 590

You have to be registered for at least three course credits each quarter to be considered a full-time student.

Students in their first eight quarters at Northwestern (that is to say the first and second years including summers) are considered to be completing "residency." If you are taking less than three courses for credit - which will occur in both summers and perhaps some academic year quarters in your second year - you can register for Econ 590 "Research" to make up the difference. You can register for up to 3 units per quarter. It is on a P/N basis. The Director of Graduate Studies is listed as the faculty member for grading this registration.

Students beyond the eighth quarter, should not use Econ 590. They should use TGS 500 (or TGS 512 or TGS 513 in certain circumstances).

Registering for Research Workshops

While it is not part of the formal degree requirements, attending research seminars is probably one of the most valuable aspects of your graduate education. You get to meet leaders in each field and observe the cutting edge of new research. We suggest that starting in your second year, students should attend regularly one or more of our workshop series. As a signaling and commitment device you can formally register for one or more of these series. These registrations will be offered in Fall and Spring Quarters. We suggest that students just register for series in which they have a genuine interest (if you are just looking for "filler" to maintain your full-time status of 3 courses per quarter, then Econ 590 for second year students and TGS 500 for older students are the most appropriate registrations).

This Quarter's Course Descriptions

The Department has a policy to avoid the problem of excessive awarding of incomplete grades. Please see our web site for a complete statement. Report any problems to the Director of Graduate Studies.

Economics 412-1

Economic Theory and Methods

Professors Dekel & Siniscalchi

TTh 1:30-3:20

Jacobs 3204

This is an advanced topics in theory with a focus on decision theory and game theory. Topics include concerns about ambiguity, temptation, costly contemplation, preferences for flexibility, learning, non-standard time preferences, bandits, solution concepts for games-including their foundations, forward and backward induction, and hierarchies of beliefs. Topics will be presented using both classic papers and more recent contributions. Evaluation is based on a presentation.

Economics 414-1

Economics of Information

Professors Wolinsky

MW 1:30-3:20

Jacobs 3245

This course will survey some of the central topics in the economics of information. Among them are formal descriptions of information and measures of informativeness, implementation / mechanism design, search, and information aggregation by markets. The course will present both more foundational models and ideas and more applied ones.

Economics 416-1

Advanced Macroeconomics

Professor Christiano

MW 1:30-3:20

Jacobs 3204

This course will provide an introduction to tools for solving, simulating and estimating models relevant to the analysis

of business cycles. The course will also examine particular aspects of business cycle models, especially the labor market.

Evaluation is by a series of homework exercises, a midterm and a final. A student may replace the final exam with a research paper, subject to advance instructor approval.

Economics 425-1

Theory of Economic Development

Professor Jayachandran

TTh 9-10:50

Jacobs 3204

An introduction to microeconomic topics in development, with an emphasis on human capital and political economy, and on empirical methods. Topics include: intra-household allocation, health, education, gender, corruption, property rights, and democracy.

Evaluation is based on two referee reports, an in-class presentation, a research proposal, and a final exam. The reading list consists of articles; there is no required textbook.

Economics 440-1

Economics of the Labor Market

Professor Notowidigdo

MW 9-10:50

Jacobs 3204

This course studies topics in labor economics, surveying both theoretical and empirical work in the field. The topics will be focused around the core areas of labor supply, labor demand, and human capital. The theoretical models will include signaling, skill premia, self-selection, and statistical discrimination. The empirical work will focus on recent papers studying human capital, inequality, technological change, trade/offshoring, immigration, and minimum wages.

Evaluation is by several problem sets and a final exam. The problem sets will include both solving theoretical models and statistical programming exercises.

Readings are primarily academic papers, lecture slides, and an (optional) textbook

Labor Economics by Cahuc et al. (MIT Press, 2014).

Economics 450-1

Industrial Organization and Prices

Professors Nevo and Rogerson

TTh 11-12:50

Jacobs 3245

This course provides an introduction to industrial organization theory and empirical analysis. The course will be divided into two five-week segments. The first half, taught by Professor Rogerson will cover theoretical models. Topics to be covered include price and product choice of an unregulated monopoly, regulation, static and dynamic oligopolistic price/quantity competition, entry, entry deterrence, strategic investment, network industries, two-sided markets, vertical relationships, and antitrust. The second half, taught by Professor Nevo, will cover empirical analysis. Topics to be covered include production function estimation, empirical studies of structure, pricing, and profitability, estimation of demand and consumer welfare. The emphasis will be on the estimation and testing of game theoretic models, and especially on recent developments in the field.

Grading will be based on a number of problem sets, a midterm, and a final exam. The texts for the course are *The Theory of Industrial Organization* by Jean Tirole (MIT Press, 1988), and *Oligopoly Pricing: Old Ideas and New Tools* by Xavier Vives (MIT Press, 2000).

Economics 481-1

Econometrics

Professor Horowitz

MW 5:30-7:20pm

Jacobs 3245

This course will present semiparametric and nonparametric methods for estimating probability density functions, conditional mean and quantile functions, and functions that are identified by moment conditions.

The first part of the course will treat methods for estimating probability density functions and conditional moment and

quantile functions. These methods include kernel and series estimation. Dimension reduction methods such as index and additive models will also be treated.

The second part of the course will treat nonparametric instrumental variables estimation. This is a relatively new field that offers many opportunities for further research. The course will present the theory and give examples of the use and performance of the methods that are covered. There will be empirical examples of the differences between nonparametric and parametric estimates.

Students will be asked to make a presentation, work one or two problem sets, and write a paper in which one or more of the methods covered in the course is investigated further or applied to real data. There will be no examinations. The reading material will consist of journal articles and working papers, chapters from *Semiparametric and Nonparametric Methods in Econometrics* by Joel Horowitz (Springer, 2009), and chapters in the *Handbook of Econometrics*.

Economics 482

Applied Econometrics: Time-Series Methods

Professor Primiceri

MW 3:30-5:20

Jacobs 3204

This course is an introduction to modern time series analysis. The emphasis is on Bayesian methods to conduct inference in dynamic macro-econometric models. Topics include univariate and multivariate autoregression (AR and VAR) models, structural VARs, state-space models, time-varying parameters and stochastic volatility models, estimation of linear and nonlinear dynamic stochastic general equilibrium (DSGE) models, model comparison and model choice. Evaluation will be based on problem sets and a take-home final exam.

MECS 449-1

Economics of Innovation

Professor Spulber

W 3:30-6:20

Jacobs 165

This course introduces theoretical models of invention and innovation. Topics include competition in technology markets, innovation, intellectual property, patent licensing, incentive contracts for research and development (R&D), R&D contests and tournaments, technology standards, standard setting organizations, and entrepreneurship. The course also gives an introductory coverage of newly available data bases in invention and innovation and reviews some basic empirical analysis in innovation economics.

Readings are selected journal articles, working papers, and lectures posted on canvas. Evaluation is based on a brief paper and the course provides a workshop on preparing the paper.

MECS 460-1

Foundations of Management Economics

Professor Gradwohl

W 9-12

Jacobs 586

Note first class meeting is Monday Sept 21 from 9-12 in Jacobs 4214.

The first quarter in the three quarter Foundations of Managerial Economics sequence. It provides essential tools for those planning to create or apply economic theory. The course can be divided very broadly into feasibility, optimization, and fixed-point theory. Specific topics include linear programming, Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions, Brouwer and Kakutani fixed-point theorems, and super-modularity, with illustrations of uses in finance, game theory, general equilibrium, and matching.

Evaluation is by weekly problem sets and a final exam. The required text is *Advanced Mathematical Economics* by Rakesh Vohra (Routledge, 2005).

MECS 516

Topics in Formal Political Theory

Professor Persico

Th 11-2

Jacobs 586

Budget Deficits: A Political Economy View. Budget deficits are a defining feature of the contemporary state. Starting in the 1960's, most developed countries have been running persistent deficits. Today, government debt levels exceed the GDP in many countries. The high taxes needed to refinance this debt distort the real economy and reduce growth. Future generations will bear the burden. What caused these budget deficits? Can we expect them to persist? What impact do they have on the real economy? Are they the necessary side-effect of democracy, and are some political institutions better than others at containing the debt?

This class will review the economic and political-economic literature on budget deficits. It will cover theoretical and empirical papers on topics including: economic and politico-economic models of government debt; the impact of debt on growth; the effect of fiscal rules; and sovereign defaults. The emphasis will be on recent developments in the field. The course is designed to be complementary with Public Finance and Macroeconomics.

Evaluation will be by written assignments and class participation.

Please note that the Finance Department has renumbered their courses into two sequences. Finance 485-1,2,3 (the former 485, 488, 487) deals with Asset Pricing, and Finance 486-1,2,3 (former 486, 489, 520) deals with Corporate Finance.

Finance 485-1

Asset Pricing I

Professor Skiadas

TTh 3-5:45

Jacobs 4214

An in-depth introduction to competitive asset pricing theory: arbitrage pricing, equilibrium pricing and optimal consumption/portfolio choice. Models are developed for a finite information tree, but

from an advanced perspective that motivates and builds intuition toward continuous-time modeling.

The textbook is *Asset Pricing Theory* by Costas Skiadas (Princeton U.P., 2009). Updates to the textbook will be distributed.

Evaluation will be by weekly assignments, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

Finance 486-1

Corporate Finance I

Professors Fishman and Milbradt

F 10:30-12 & 1-2:30

Jacobs 4214

The general topics include corporate financing and investment decisions; optimal financial contracting; financial intermediation; and law and finance. In the context of these topics, the course will examine the implications of incentive problems, asymmetric information, taxes, and product market competition. It will also cover financial intermediation and possibly financial crises.

Evaluation will be by problem sets, referee reports, and a final exam.

MORS 522

Economics, Social Psychology, and their Experiments

Professor Murnighan

M 9:30-12:30

Jacobs 372

Social psychology and economics share many interests. Over the last 20 years or so, researchers in both fields have addressed the same topics, albeit from different points of view. This course will focus on how these two fields investigate these overlapping topics. To do this students will read some of the best experiments in both fields, i.e., about 6 journal articles each week, to see how the two fields have taken different approaches to the same research question, even though they both use the same basic methodology. Thus, this seminar will push an appreciation for both approaches. As with any form of empirical inquiry, there is also much to be critiqued. The course will try to emphasize the former as we inevitably confront the latter.

The course requirements include two short 'testable hypotheses' papers of about 2 pages each, plus a longer paper that presents the introduction and methods sections of a potential paper that presents new experimental research. There will also be an opportunity for each class member to present their ideas to the class to get constructive feedback from many different points of view, i.e., invaluable feedback.

For each class, including the first, it is expected that the readings will be read in advance and students are prepared to discuss them. Contact Andy Marfia at abmarfia@northwestern.edu to get the syllabus and the first week's readings.

Economics 501 Seminar

The 501 seminar is the principal mechanism by which students meet the Department's requirement that they write and present two research papers (in addition to the history paper requirement).

For 2015-16 the seminar will be run by Professor Alessandro Pavan. The random drawing of the order of student presentations was included in the March *Graduate Connection*.

The seminar will be held in the Fall and Spring Quarters on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11AM to 11:50AM, and on selected Fridays from 1PM to 1:50PM in room 3245. The specific dates for the Fall are:

Week	M 11-12	W 11-12	F 1-2
21-Sep	Starkov	Bornstein	
28-Sep	Cugat	Toader	
5-Oct	Panjwani	Norris, S	X
12-Oct	Ndiaye	Tabord-Meehan	
19-Oct	X	Bittarello	Xiong
26-Oct	Segura Varo	Indarte	Inostroza
2-Nov	Escudero	Maggi	Johnson
9-Nov	Kamat	Wang	X
16-Nov	Mishara-Blomberger	Vreugd-enhil	Makarín
23-Nov	Zhao	Montag	X
30-Nov	X	Norris, J	Ou

Pareto improving exchanges are only permissible with the agreement of Professor Pavan. Students do have the option of presenting in other venues, such as a field lunch. Students electing to use this option should keep Professor Pavan informed. Full practical details for the 501 Seminar are given on our web site.

Specific dates for the Spring Quarter will appear in the March *Graduate Connection*. However the (random) order of presentations was included in the March 2015 edition and is:

Vreugdenhil, Nicholas
Escudero, Matias
Mishara-Blomberger, Jonas
Ndiaye, Abdoulaye
Zhao, Yiling
Starkov, Egor
Segura Varo, Maria Dolores
Xiong, Heyu
Montag, Hugh
Norris, Jordan
Tabord-Meehan, Max
Cugat, Gabriela
Bittarello, Luca
Makarín, Alexey
Wang, Sibó
Bornstein, Gideon
Inostroza, Nicolas
Panjwani, Aniket
Kamat, Vishal
Indarte, Sasha
Toader, Alexandra
Johnson, Stephanie
Maggi, Chiara
Norris, Sam
Ou, Susan

Please note some administrative arrangements:

1. Students must register for Econ 501 in the Fall and Spring of their third year.
2. The signed approval form must be returned to the Graduate Program Assistant within two weeks of the presentation or by the Friday of exam week, whichever is earlier. At least one of the faculty signing must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department.

3. A “pass grade” will be issued based on the signed approval form and satisfactory attendance.

Two pass grades are necessary to meet the Department’s research paper requirement.

Formal Announcements

Funding Guidelines

The Department has formal rules for the allocation of funding for students in years two through six. This document is posted on our web site. Please read this document as *the Department strictly enforces these funding criteria*.

Preliminary Examinations

First year students should familiarize themselves with the Department’s rules on continuation to the second year. These are posted on our web site.

Dates for the prelim examinations for the coming year have been set. The ordering of the three examinations rotates each year.

Monday July 11 - Microeconomics
Friday July 15 - Macroeconomics
Wednesday July 20 - Econometrics
All examinations will be held 1:30PM – 4:30PM.

Students should note that they are exempt from the prelim exam in any area in which they achieved a GPA of 3.60 or greater in the three first-year classes (e.g. in 410-1,2,3 for the microeconomics prelim exam).

TA Periods in Residence

Each quarter that you are a TA, you are expected to be in Evanston on weekdays from the first day of classes until the Monday after examinations end (which is the day that grades are filed). Absences during this period require permission of the instructor. In the past people have left early and arrived back late, in some cases without informing the instructor. The

Department will not tolerate this. You must arrange your vacation airline flights so as to be able to fulfill your duties. This is especially true as you make travel arrangements for the coming holiday season. Failure to do so will be grounds for rescinding your TAship. For the coming year the dates for which you should be in attendance are:

Fall: Mon Sept 21 - Mon Dec 14
Winter: Mon Jan 4 - Mon March 21
Spring: Tues Mar 29 - Mon June 13

Graduate School Deadlines

November 6 is the last day for return of the Application for a Degree for all candidates who expect their degrees to be awarded in December.

December 4 is the last day for submission of the COMPLETED dissertation and all supporting materials to the Graduate School for students who expect to receive the Ph.D. degree in December.

December 11 is the last day for receipt of the Final Examination Report and any Change of Grade forms to the Graduate School for Master's candidates who expect their degrees to be awarded in December.

Human Subjects Research

Even though we are a social science rather than a medical science, it is possible that government restrictions on the privacy of human subjects may apply to your PhD dissertation. If you are collecting new data, or even using previously collected data, on individual identifiable people, then you may have to get prior approval for your research from Northwestern’s Institutional Research Board. You should read the FAQ section of their web site to see if it applies to you:

<http://www.research.northwestern.edu/oprs/irb/>
The web site also includes information on the approval process, if that is necessary.

Students Working on NSF Grants

Federal law requires that all students supported by National Science Foundation undergo training in the responsible conduct of research. This will be accomplished by a one-time registration in ECON 519 that has two components: an online class and a "face-to-face" component. The online part asks the student to complete a 2-3 hour online class administered by a private company that Northwestern has hired. DGS Professor **Wojciech Olszewski** will lead the face-to-face part of the class.

If you are being supported on an NSF grant for the first time, please contact Professor Olszewski for instructions.

Funding Opportunities

Non-Departmental Funding

There are a number of funding awards for continuing students that have application deadlines during the fall quarter. A special web page details these, and includes links to more details and application forms. See the link from the "Graduate > Current Students" section of our web site.

In particular NSF Fellowships available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, have a deadline of early November. You can apply on-line.

Northwestern's Presidential Fellowship, the University's highest award, requires departmental nomination. You will need to have your materials ready for the Departmental selection process by mid-October.

There is also information on the web page on how to obtain Graduate School funds for research expenses and attending conferences. The maximum one-time research grant is \$3,000, and there is funding for two conference during your time at Northwestern that covers up to a maximum of \$800 for each conference.

Placement Report

Best wishes are offered to the following people as they start their professional careers (academic appointments are in the economics department except where indicated):

Bridget Hoffman - Inter-American Development Bank, Washington DC

Alexander James - Bank of America - Merrill Lynch, New York City

Christopher Lau - Federal Trade Commission, Washington DC

Jorge Lemus - University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Matteo Li Bergolis - Cornerstone Research, New York City

Benjamin Mermelstein - Bates White, Washington DC

Robert Molony - Sotera Defense Solutions, Washington DC

David Ovadia - Federal Trade Commission, Washington DC

Esteban Petruzzello - University of Miami

Juan Prada Sarmiento - Barclays Capital, New York City

Mikhail Safronov - Cambridge University (postdoc)

Shruti Sinha - Toulouse School of Economics

Emil Temnyalov - University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

Andrew Thompson - Emil van Essen Managed Futures, LLC, Chicago

Anthony Wray - Hitotsubashi University, Japan

Ludovico Zaraga - Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, Toronto

This Year's Job Market

Matthias Doepke, Director of Graduate Placement, will be holding an introductory meeting on Tuesday, September 29 at 5:15PM in room 3204 for students planning to be on the job market.

The Department has longstanding procedures and deadlines to ensure that vitae and job market packets are prepared on time. Students who intend to be on the job market can collect a hard copy of the

document outlining these arrangements from the Graduate Program Coordinator's Office. It is also posted in PDF format on our web site in the "Graduate > Degree Requirements and Goals > Goals for Dissertation Year Students" page.

Graduation Rates

The first table shows the percentage of each class making it to completion of first year (ie., taking the preliminary examinations), passing all of the preliminary examinations, defending a dissertation prospectus, and completion of the Ph.D.

Class	First Year	Prelim exams	Prospectus	Ph.D.
1999	94%	89%	67%	67%
2000	86%	81%	76%	67%
2001	100%	92%	83%	71%
2002	90%	76%	71%	62%
2003	92%	83%	83%	71%
2004	100%	77%	69%	65%
2005	88%	77%	73%	73%
2006	88%	73%	69%	65%
2007	96%	86%	79%	68%
2008	89%	85%	81%	70%
2009	100%	85%	77%	na
2010	96%	81%	67%	na
2011	90%	85%	75%	na
2012	100%	90%	na	na
2013	97%	90%	na	Na
2014	100%	88%	na	Na

For the 241 students entering in the ten year period between 1999 and 2008, on average 93% completed the first year, 82% passed all prelims, 76% defended a dissertation prospectus and 68% received a doctoral degree. Four (2%) of these students are still registered and may yet obtain a Ph.D.

The second table shows the time to completion for students entering between 1999 and 2008. Completion is based on the date that the degree was awarded, which may be up to a year from the time that the student left Northwestern to take

up a job. The mean is 5.82 years, and the median is 6 years. However, 40% of our graduates completed in five or fewer years.

Duration	Number of Students
4 years	3
5 years	62
6 years	76
7 years	15
8 years	4
9 years	2
10 years	1
11 years	1

Notes

Office Allocations

An initial allocation of students to rooms was circulated in late-August. Students are allocated to a room rather than to a specific carrel. The students allocated to that room should coordinate among themselves to determine who wishes to use the room at what times of day and coordinate the sharing of individual carrels.

Students are encouraged to make Pareto-improving exchanges of rooms, but please let the Associate Chair <ipsavage@northwestern.edu> know by September 11, so that we can update the on-line student directory.

Instructions for Using the Computer Lab

This is information primarily for first-year students. When using the computer lab (room 313), you will initially find a Windows log-in screen. You need to use your NU NetID and password.

Note that you should save your personal files on an external drive or a network drive, and not on an individual machine's hard drive. The latter is a very risky strategy, as any software updates will overwrite all of the existing memory, and the hard drives are not backed up.

Printing is to the left-hand copier (Ricoh MP 7502) in room 301. Instructions are posted on the noticeboard in the lab, and also in the "Graduate > Degree Requirements and Goals" section of our website. You can also print to the copier from your own personal computer if you download the appropriate driver. Your usercode is your 7-digit NU student ID number. You can also use this code to make walk-up copies on the copy machines.

Graduate students are given an allowance of 500 copies/prints per calendar month. You will be billed each month at 6¢ a page for any excess above 500.

E-mail Group Mailing Lists

The Department has four group mailing lists. The group mailing list for graduate students is:

<econ-grads@northwestern.edu>.

There is also a list called

<econ-1stys@northwestern.edu>

which is for first year students. Do not mail to both of these lists as the second is a sub-set of the first.

Note that these are "closed" lists to avoid spam postings. To post to the lists you must use your @u.northwestern.edu e-mail address. Mail from other addresses (e.g. gmail) will be automatically rejected.

Coffee Machine in Lounge

There is a Nespresso coffee machine in the Lounge which can either brew espresso or regular coffee. The machine requires capsules that are sold in boxes of 50 for \$35.00 (70¢ a cup). The order form can be linked to from the "Graduate > Degree Requirements and Goals" page of our web site.

The form and a check payable to "Northwestern University" should be given to the staff in our main office. Orders are placed at noon on the first business day of the month.

Next Graduate Connection

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